

SDA attracts 1,000

Approximately 1,000 persons attended The Soap and Detergent Association's 57th annual meeting and industry convention in Boca Raton, Florida, during late January.

An improving U.S. economy buoyed attitudes compared with the previous year's convention, with the only cloud on the economic horizon cited by most speakers being the size of the federal deficit. Rep. Thomas (Tip) O'Neill, speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, gave a Democratic view of the state of the union, saying the federal deficit would stifle economic recovery, while the federal government was abandoning policies that had fostered economic improvement for American citizens. Rep. Guy Vander Jagt, chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee, responded, citing as GOP accomplishments reduced inflation, lower federal income tax rates and signs of an improving economy. Vander Jagt said President Reagan has improved U.S. military preparedness, slowed the growth of the federal government, reduced federal regulatory growth, lowered interest rates and lowered the unemployment rate. He said the 1984 presidential election basically will be a referendum on Reagan's policies during his first term in office.

The election year will dominate Washington during 1984, O'Neill said, so that the only major legislation he expected to pass this spring would be a new bankruptcy law (to replace a law that expires during March 1984) and a new immigration law.

Robert J. Larson of Procter & Gamble's Environmental Safety Department presented a technical paper on "Biodegradation of Detergent Chemicals in Groundwater/Subsurface Systems." Although SDA has heard numerous reports in recent years on biodegradability in surface waters, this was one of the first reports on subsurface conditions. Larson found active bacteria in subsurface water can degrade anionic, cationic and nonionic surfactants as well as an organic detergent builder (NTA). Degradation occurs at slower rates, but rapidly enough to prevent accumulations, Larson said. Further work will aim at examining degradation under varying subsurface water conditions.

SDA-sponsored research was reviewed by Keith A. Booman, SDA's technical director. Nicholas L. Clersceri of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, described an SDA-funded project to quantitatively evaluate the effect of a phosphate ban in Wisconsin.

Wisconsin reinstated a phosphate ban as of Jan. 1, 1984, after having let the previous ban lapse for more than a year. SDA's technical and advisory committee also was told of legislative phosphate bans being proposed in North and South Carolina as well as Maryland.

John W. Hanley, retiring chairman of the Executive Committee of the Board of Monsanto Company, repeated his plea for the chemical industry to voluntarily establish a program to clean up toxic waste sites as one way to gain public confidence in the responsibility of chemical companies.

Elected as chairman of The Soap and Detergent Association was Philip T. Perkins, president of Economics Laboratory Inc. He succeeds AOCS member Allen H. Howland of



Philip T. Perkins

Original Bradford Soap Works. AOCS member Charles A. Aldag, of Sherex Chemical Co., was one of 5 new members elected to the 20-member SDA Board of Directors. Other new board members are Richard A. Goldstein of Lever Brothers, June A. Stahl of Stahl Soap Corporation, James A. Hartlage of Stepan Company and John H. Beese of Union Carbide.

BASF's Schmolka announces retirement



Irving R. Schmolka, an AOCS member since 1958, has retired as senior research associate at BASF Wynadotte in Wynadotte, Michigan. Schmolka, who has been active in AOCS education and program planning committees, served as chairman for the 1980 AOCS Short Course, Detergents Eight-O. Schmolka has been with BASF for the past 26 years. He had worked for the Colgate Palmolive Co. before joining BASF. Schmolka said he plans to do some consulting work. He has received 37 patents and has published 26 scientific papers.

Zeolite meeting scheduled

An International Symposium on Zeolites has been announced for Sept. 3-8, 1984, in Portorose, Yugoslavia. The organizer is the Boris Kidric Institute of Chemistry in Ljubljana on behalf of the International Zeolite Association.

Further details are available from the Organizing Committee, International Symposium on Zeolite, Boris Kidric Institute of Chemistry, PO Box 380, Hajdrihova 19, 61001 Ljubljana, Yugoslavia.